(d) if so, the steps Government are contemplating to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per the information available around 5% of the workers in the age group of 20-24 receive skill training through formal training Institutions, whereas majority of the workers in the country acquire skills through informal means after joining a particular job. However, in the context of globalisation and economic liberalization skill level of the workers requires upgradation.

(c) Yes Sir,.

(d) Government has taken up the following steps to create qualitative labour force;

1. Private sector is encourage to set up training Institutes.
2. Upgradation of 100 existing ITIs as Centre of Excellence.
3. Modernization of existing ITIs in North Eastern States including Sikkim and J&K.
4. Testing & Certification of skills obtained by the labour force informally.

Outcome of the Labour Ministers Conference

4559. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three day Conference of Labour Ministers was held on October 16-18, 2003;

(b) if so, the main observations and decisions made at the Conference; and

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra made a number of recommendations for promotion and protection of interests of the unorganised sector of labour including the farm labour, if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. However, the 39th Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held on 16-18 October, 2003.

(a) and (c) Do not arise.

Late Night Shifts for Women

4560. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
DR. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed women to work in late night shifts, especially in the apparel sector to face stiff competition from China;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to amend the Factories Act for this purpose,

(c) what occupational safety and protection of their dignity are going to be provided to women;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) On the demands of the Women's Organizations and in tune with the needs of the present economic globalization it has been decided to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 to allow employment of women workers between 7.00 P.M. and 6.00 A.M. in the factories. This flexibility will be available to all manufacturing units, including units in the apparel sector.

(c) The amendment would inter-alia provide that the occupier has to ensure occupational safety and adequate protection of the women workers so employed by him.

(d) and (e) The State Government or any person authorized by them would be allowing employment of women during night only after consulting